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### PHIL 467.01: 20th Century Continental Philosophy - Jacques Derrida

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**JACQUES DERRIDA**  
**PHIL 467, SECTION 01 (CRN: 33505)**  
**McGILL HALL, ROOM 237**  
**MW 11:40 A.M-1:00 P.M.**  
**SPRING SEMESTER 2007**

Professor: David Sherman  
Office: LA 153, ext. 2607

Office Hours: MW 430-530 and by appt.  
E-mail: David.Sherman@umontana.edu

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Jacques Derrida, the originator of what is called "deconstruction," was one of the most important and influential (if not particularly well understood) philosophers of the past forty years. Strongly influenced by phenomenology (especially Husserl and Heidegger) and structuralism (Saussure's linguistics and Levi-Strauss's anthropology), Derrida played these movements off one another to produce a powerful synthesis, and he was, perhaps, more responsible than any other philosopher for the philosophical paradigm shift from structuralism to poststructuralism in the late 1960s.

Derrida's career can be divided into two parts. The first part, which runs from the mid-1960s to the mid-1980s, involves his critiques of phenomenology and structuralism, and, more generally, his deconstruction of the "metaphysics of presence" in the works of other thinkers. The second part, which runs from the mid-1980s to his death in 2005, involves the more "positive" project of making deconstruction relevant with respect to ethical and political concerns.

## **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Jacques Derrida:

*Margins of Philosophy*, tr. Alan Bass, University of Chicago Press, 1982 ("MP")  
*Writing and Difference*, tr. Alan Bass, University of Chicago Press, 1978 ("WD")  
*Specters of Marx*, tr. Peggy Kamuf, Routledge Press, 1994 ("SM")  
*Rogues*, trs. P-A Brault and M. Nass, Stanford University Press, 2005 ("R")

Required Readings on reserve in the Boyce Library:

"Semiology and Grammatology" (with J. Kristeva), *Positions*, University of Chicago Press, 1981  
"Sending: On Representation," *Social Research* vol. 49, no. 2 (1982)  
"Force of Law," *Deconstruction and the Possibility of Justice*, Routledge, 1992

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION**

Your evaluation for the course will be based on two tests and one paper. The tests, scheduled for March 21 and May 10, are each worth 30% of your final grade. You should bring a blue book to both tests, which are "closed book." The paper, which is worth 40% of your final grade, is due on May 2. For undergraduates, the paper should be 2000 words, while, for graduate students, it should be 3000 words. (On your paper, you should put the word count at the top of the first page, along with your name, and submit two copies.)

Attendance is required. In addition, you are expected to arrive on time. Although any given late arrival will be tolerated, a pattern of late arrivals will not. If you cannot attend regularly and on time, you should not take this course. Make-up exams will not be given unless evidence of an illness or emergency is provided, and late papers will be docked one grade increment for each day late. Cheating in any form will be punished in accord with the Student Disciplinary Code.

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Jan. 22	Administrative Matters/Introduction
Jan. 24	“‘Genesis and Structure’ and Phenomenology” (WD 154-168)
Jan. 29	“The Ends of Man” (MP 111-136)
Jan. 31	“The Ends of Man” (continued)
Feb. 5	“Structure, Sign, & Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences” (WD 278-293)
Feb. 7	“Structure, Sign, & Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences” (continued)
Feb. 12	“Différance” (MP 3-27)
Feb. 14	“Différance” (continued)
Feb. 19	<b>Presidents’ Day Holiday</b>
Feb. 21	“Semiology and Grammatology” (Boyce)
Feb. 26	“Theater of Cruelty and Closing of Representation” (WD 232-250)
Feb. 28	“Sending: On Representation” (Boyce)
Mar. 5	“From Restricted to General Economy” (WD 251-277)
Mar. 7	“From Restricted to General Economy” (continued)
Mar. 12	“White Mythology” (MP 209-271)
Mar. 14	“White Mythology” (continued)
Mar. 19	“White Mythology” (continued)
Mar. 21	<b>First Exam</b>
Mar. 26	<b>Spring Break</b>
Mar. 28	<b>Spring Break</b>
Apr. 2	“Force of Law” (Boyce)
Apr. 4	“Force of Law” (Boyce)
Apr. 9	<i>Specters of Marx</i> : Exordium, Chapter 1 (SM xvi-xx/1-60)
Apr. 11	<i>Specters of Marx</i> : Chapter 2 (SM 61-95)
Apr. 16	<i>Specters of Marx</i> : Chapter 3 (SM 96-117)
Apr. 18	<i>Specters of Marx</i> : Chapter 4 (SM 118-155)
Apr. 23	<i>Specters of Marx</i> : Section 5 (SM 156-221)
Apr. 25	<i>Rogues</i> : Preface; Part I, Sections 1-7 (R 1-77)
Apr. 30	<i>Rogues</i> : Part I (R 78-114)
May 2	<i>Rogues</i> : Part II (R 117-159); <b>Paper Due</b>
May 10	<b>Second Exam</b> (10:10-12:10)